

*47 reactions*

FBI 164 (SEE 79)

MARCOS DISCUSSES INDOCHINA IMPACT ON U.S.-PHILIPPINE TIES

OW 161840 HONG KONG AFP IN ENGLISH 1745 GMT 16 APR 75 OW

(TEXT) MANILA, APRIL 16 (AFP)--PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS SAID TONIGHT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA HAD CHANGED THE BALANCE OF FORCES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND WARNED THIS COULD TRIGGER "WIDESPREAD INSTABILITY" IN THE REGION.

IN A MAJOR TELEVISED POLICY SPEECH HERE, MR MARCOS SAID THE REFUSAL OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXTEND FURTHER AID TO INDOCHINA STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT IN THE U.S. VIEW INDOCHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA WERE "NO LONGER AN AREA OF VITAL INTEREST" TO AMERICA. HENCE, THE NEED FOR THE PHILIPPINES TO MAKE A SERIOUS REASSESSMENT OF ITS SECURITY TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES, MR MARCOS SAID. HARD AND DIFFICULT DECISIONS MAY BE AHEAD, HE ADDED.

"A GENERATION OF CONFLICT IN INDOCHINA IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING A CLIMAX... DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA HAVE PATENTLY CHANGED THE BALANCE OF FORCES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA," MR MARCOS DECLARED.

IN REASSESSING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., THE PRESIDENT SAID, THE PHILIPPINES WANTED AMONG OTHERS TO CLEAR UP THE "AMBIGUITIES" IN THE BILATERAL MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY.

HE NOTED THAT THE TREATY, UNLIKE AMERICAN COMMITMENTS WITH NATO COUNTRIES, PROVIDED NO IRONCLAD GUARANTEES OF AUTOMATIC AMERICAN RETALIATION IN CASE OF AN OUTSIDE ATTACK AGAINST THE PHILIPPINES.

ONE QUESTION TO BE CLARIFIED, HE SAID, WAS IN WHAT SPECIFIC CASES OF AGGRESSION WOULD THE U.S. BE OBLIGATED TO COME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT "FUNDAMENTAL CLARIFICATIONS" HAD TO BE MADE ON THE PROBLEM OF COMMON DEFENSE AGAINST EXTERNAL AGGRESSION "IF THE PRESENT BASIC RELATION (BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE U.S.) IS TO CONTINUE."

MR MARCOS NOTED THAT MANY AMERICAN LEADERS TODAY FAVORED A RETRENCHMENT IN AMERICAN POWER IN ASIA AND CONCENTRATION OF U.S. RESOURCES CLOSER TO HOME.

WHILE HE DID NOT WISH TO QUESTION AMERICA'S INTERPRETATION OF ITS NATIONAL INTEREST, HE DECLARED THAT "AN INTERPRETATION THAT DENIGRATES THE INTEGRITY OF TREATY COMMITMENTS FREELY ENTERED INTO... IS BOUND TO BE OF UTMOST CONCERN TO THE NATIONS OF ASIA, AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE PHILIPPINES."

MR MARCOS ALSO SAID SOME AMERICAN LEADERS SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THE PROBLEMS OF SECURITY IN ASIA, INCLUDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, "MAY BE BETTER LEFT IN THE HANDS OF A SURROGATE POWER WHICH IN THE PRESENT CASE IS OR MAY BE JAPAN." THIS, HE SAID, "IS FOOD FOR SERIOUS THOUGHT."

REGARDING THE PRESENCE OF U.S. MILITARY BASES HERE, MR MARCOS SAID THE NEW SITUATION IN ASIA MIGHT MEAN THAT THE PRESENT U.S. DEFENSE LINE EXTENDING FROM THE ALEUTIANS TO JAPAN, KOREA, THAILAND AND INDOCHINA MIGHT BE CHANGED.

IF A NEW DEFENSE LINE WERE TO EMERGE TO INCLUDE THE PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA, THE QUESTION WOULD THEN BE, HE SAID: WOULD THE PHILIPPINES BE READY TO ACCEPT SUCH A ROLE?

16 APR 2305Z DD/AK

FBIS 79

ROMULO EXPLAINS AIM OF REASSESSMENT OF TIES WITH U.S.

EA

OW160908 HONG KONG AFP IN ENGLISH 0850 GMT 16 APR 75 OW

(TEXT) MANILA, APRIL 16 (AFP)--PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS HAS TOLD THE FOREIGN OFFICE THAT IN RENEGOTIATING SECURITY TREATIES WITH THE UNITED STATES, IT MUST NOT ALLOW WHAT HAPPENED IN INDOCHINA TO "REPEAT ITSELF" IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THIS WAS STATED HERE TODAY BY FOREIGN SECRETARY CARLOS P. ROMULO FOLLOWING A GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE PHILIPPINES WAS MAKING A "HARD-HEADED REASSESSMENT" OF ITS SECURITY LINKS WITH THE U.S., IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA.

MR ROMULO, IN A PRESS STATEMENT, SAID THAT GOVERNMENT PANELS HAD BEEN MEETING SINCE LAST YEAR DISCUSSING THE RENEGOTIATION OF ALL PHILIPPINE TREATIES WITH THE U.S., COVERING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY RELATIONS.

HE SAID THAT 3 WEEKS AGO MR MARCOS INSTRUCTED THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO CONCENTRATE ON TREATIES WITH THE U.S. "THAT HAVE TO DO WITH SECURITY."

"HIS INSTRUCTION TO US IS THAT WE MUST BE GUIDED BY PRUDENCE IN EVALUATING RECENT EVENTS IN ASIA BUT THAT WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT HISTORY DOES NOT REPEAT ITSELF IN THE PHILIPPINES," MR

ROMULO SAID.

OBSERVERS INTERPRETED THIS AS INDICATION OF MR MARCOS' CONCERN THAT SHOULD THE COMMUNIST INSURGENCY HERE COME TO A BOIL, THE PHILIPPINES MUST BE ASSURED THAT IT COULD COUNT ON AMERICAN ASSISTANCE.

MR MARCOS, IN A SPEECH YESTERDAY, SAID REASSESSMENT OF SECURITY TIES WITH THE U.S. HAD BECOME A MATTER OF "NECESSITY" FOR THE PHILIPPINES IN THE WAKE OF INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS.

HE SAID THE QUESTION FACING THE GOVERNMENT WAS WHETHER OR NOT THE PHILIPPINES COULD SURVIVE UNDER PRESENT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

THE PHILIPPINES IS LINKED MILITARILY WITH THE U.S. THROUGH THE MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT AND THE MILITARY BASES AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS.

16 APR 1429Z JDM/MC